

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) The fixing band-tightening apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said stopper section is provided with a first sensor for detecting said projection before said projection of said fixing band arrives at a band-tightening position in said lateral direction, and said stopper mechanism is operated on the basis of a detection signal outputted from said first sensor.

6. (Amended) The fixing band-tightening apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said stopper section is provided with a first sensor for detecting said projection before said projection of said fixing band arrives at a band-tightening position in said lateral direction, and a second sensor for detecting a fact that a first end of said stopper block abuts against said projection of said fixing band respectively, and wherein detection positions to be sensed by said first sensor and said second sensor reside in a pin point H and a pin point I respectively, and said pin point H and said pin point I are arranged substantially in parallel at portions deviated by predetermined distances in said substantially horizontal direction from a substantially central portion of said fixing band.

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7. (Amended) The fixing band-tightening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said band-tightening section is provided with another holding section for pressing and holding said projection of said fixing band positioned at a predetermined position, by means of a spring force of a spring member.

Concluded

10. (Amended) The fixing band-tightening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

A4 said stopper section includes a first stopper mechanism for positioning said projection of said first fixing band, and a second stopper mechanism for positioning a projection of a second fixing band which is separated by a predetermined distance from said first fixing band;

said band-tightening section includes a first tightening mechanism for forcibly nipping said projection of said first fixing band, and a second tightening mechanism for forcibly nipping said projection of said second fixing band; and

said projections of said first and second fixing bands are tightened substantially simultaneously in a substantially simultaneously positioned state.

A5 14/16. (Amended) The fixing band-tightening apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said end-positioning mechanisms include a large diameter side end-positioning mechanism for positioning said large diameter annular attachment section of said boot made of resin

installed to said cup section of said constant velocity universal joint at said predetermined position.

~~15~~ 17. (Amended) The fixing band-tightening apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said end-positioning mechanisms include a small diameter side end-positioning mechanism for positioning said small diameter annular attachment section of said boot made of resin installed to said shaft section of said inner member of said constant velocity universal joint at said predetermined position.

~~16~~ 18. (Amended) The fixing band-tightening apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said end-positioning mechanisms include a large diameter side end-positioning mechanism for positioning said large diameter annular attachment section of said boot made of resin installed to said cup section of said constant velocity universal joint at said predetermined position, and a small diameter side end-positioning mechanism for positioning said small diameter annular attachment section of said boot made of resin installed to said shaft section of said inner member of said constant velocity universal joint at said predetermined position.

Concluded